



Environmental Dashboard



Trends in New Hampshire's Environment Coastal Waters: Nitrogen Concentrations

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient to life in the estuaries. However, high levels of nitrogen can cause problems from the excessive growth of plants and algae. The amount of nitrogen present in the water or the nitrogen "concentration" is an important indicator of nutrient availability for plants and algae growth in the estuary.

Current Conditions

http://www.prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/2013%20SOOE/SOOE_2013_FA2.pdf

Explanation of Indicator and Trend

DES collaborates with the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) to study changes in the nitrogen concentrations in the Great Bay Estuary over time. The current condition can be found in PREP's *2013 State of Our Estuaries Report*.

How Does DES Address This?

DES is working to understand the non-point sources of nitrogen in the watershed and develop efficient strategies to reduce nitrogen loads to the estuary. In June, 2014 DES released the Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study which addresses the amount of nitrogen that is entering the Great Bay Estuary from diffuse sources such as atmospheric deposition, lawn fertilizer, animal waste, and septic systems.

For More Information, Including What You Can Do to Help

Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study (R-WD-13-10)

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/documents/gbnnpss-report.pdf>

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

<http://prepestuaries.org/>

DES Shellfish Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/shellfish/index.htm>

Great Bay Estuary <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/great-bay-estuary.htm>

NH Coastal Program <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/index.htm>

Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/nonpoint/index.htm>

NH Clean Vessel Act Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/cva/index.htm>

Pet Waste Campaign: Scoop the Poop

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/scoop_the_poop.htm

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